

STUDYING THE CAVE'S MICROBIAL DIVERSITY FY2003 REPORT

Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Summary

A comprehensive survey of microbial species in the Timpanogos Cave system is needed to understand their role in the cave's ecology. The Crandall Lab at Brigham Young University was contract to extract DNA sequencing data. The data will be paired with water quality data to define the differences between the cave's "pristine" and "disturbed" water drainages.

Progress

Ten water and sediment samples were taken from the Timpanogos Cave to extract total DNA sequence data. The project is being overseen by PhD candidate Megan Porter of the Crandall Lab at Brigham Young University. The expected products are the raw sequencing data and a detailed report of the significance of the findings. The products are expected to be received by early December 2003.

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